

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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**COMPROMISE REACHED ON INSPECTOR GENERAL BILL;
FRY, DVORAK: CHANGES BRING PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY TO INSPECTOR GENERAL**

INDIANAPOLIS – After accepting a series of amendments originally championed by House Democrats, the Indiana House of Representatives today passed Senate Bill 18, which formally creates the post of Inspector General. The measure now returns to the Indiana Senate for concurrence with changes made in the House.

"House Democrats took the lead in initiating talks between the parties and offered solutions that will strengthen the role of the Inspector General and the fight against corruption and fraud," said State Rep. Craig Fry (D-Mishawaka).

In earlier versions of the bill the matter of prosecution was left solely in the hands of the Inspector General, which meant the fate of a potential criminal case would be decided by an appointed official, rather than an elected county prosecutor. This would have given the executive branch control over the judicial branch -- a clear violation of the separation of powers in the Indiana Constitution. It also provided no accountability to the public, since an appointed official would have the sole authority to proceed with cases.

The House Democrats amendments for the Inspector General that were adopted today include:

- Keeping the responsibility of prosecuting corruption and fraud with our elected prosecutors;
- Providing that the records of the Inspector General are open to public inspection and subject to Indiana's Open Door law; and
- Ensuring an independent judicial review to ensure the integrity of the process.

"I am pleased that the Governor and the House Republican leadership recognized that there were serious constitutional and accountability concerns about the Inspector General position as originally proposed," said State Rep. Ryan Dvorak (D-South Bend). "These amendments serve to protect the public against government abuse."

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